

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**SITUATION REPORT #04**  
**Water Supply Contingency Plan Implementation-2000**  
**Friday, November 17, 2000 – 1400 Hours**

*This report contains the latest information. Revisions are in bold. Please refer to previous situation reports for past information.  
Note: Next situation Report –November 28, 2000.*

**Situation:**

The District has determined that unless levels in the lake increase to near normal level by December there is a high probability that sufficient water supplies from Lake Okeechobee may not be available to meet the needs of the users who depend on the lake as the primary source for water supply.

The Governing Board declared a water shortage warning for the Indian Prairie region at the October 12, 2000 meeting and **water shortage warning for the Lower West Coast area on 11/9**. The warning calls for voluntary restrictions from water users in the affected region which is northwest of Lake Okeechobee.

The District has declared a Water Shortage Warning for users within the South Dade Miami Water Use Basin, The Water Conservation Areas/Everglades National Park Water Use Basin, The Water Conservation Area 1/C-51 Water Use Basin, the Water Conservation Area 2 Water Use Basin, the Water Conservation Area 3 Water Use Basin, the Everglades Agricultural Area Water Use Basin, the Interior Palm Beach County Water use Basin, the M Canal Water Use Basin, The Lakeshore Perimeter Water Use Basin, The St. Lucie River Water Use Basin, and The Caloosahatchee River Water Use Basin.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:**

**Short Term:**

**Below average rain expected over Lake Okeechobee.**

**Long Term:**

Increased chance of below average rainfall during the dry season, especially during the November through March period when 90% of average rainfall is expected based on historical rainfall.

**WATER CONDITIONS:**

**Kissimmee Chain of Lakes:**

On average, the lakes in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and Lake Istokpoga are approximately 1-1.5 feet below their respective regulation schedules, with Lake Alligator about four feet below schedule and East Lake Tohopekaliga 2 feet above schedule. The lakes, on average are approximately one to two feet below their average stage for this time of year. Lake Alligator stage is more than 3 feet lower than average, and East Lake Toho stage is about average.

**Lake Okeechobee Service Area**

Lake Okeechobee average stage is 12.04 feet NGVD, which is about 3.5 feet below schedule and approximately 2.9 feet below average for this time of year.

Canals in the Everglades Agriculture Area are at normal wet season stages and are being operated to provide the authorized level of flood protection for the area. No regulatory releases are being made from Lake Okeechobee at this time in accordance with the Corps' operational guidelines. Because of the present lake stage, normal operational criteria requires that runoff from the C-44 basin is directed into Lake Okeechobee instead of to the St. Lucie Estuary.

#### **Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)**

Stages in Water Conservation Area 1 are approximately slightly above schedule and about one foot above average. Water Conservation Area 2 is about 0.9 feet below the regulation schedule and is about 0.5 feet below average for this time of year. Stages in Water Conservation Area 3 are near regulation and are about 0.3 feet above average stages at this time. Water supply deliveries are being made from the WCAs to the Everglades Agriculture Area (EAA) as water levels in the WCAs exceed those in the EAA. As WCA levels continue to fall, EAA irrigation will begin to come from Lake Okeechobee.

#### **Lower East Coast**

Canal water levels along the Lower East Coast are near normal wet season stages and are being operated to provide the authorized level of flood protection for the area.

#### **OPERATIONAL STATUS:**

The District's EOC is activated to a level 2, (partial activation) for implementation of the Water Supply Contingency Plan.

#### **TEAM REPORTS:**

##### **DISASTER ANALYSIS AND PLANNING SECTION:**

##### **Water Supply Contingency Plan Team:**

- Declared water shortage warning for the Lower West Coast area on 11/9/00.
- Coordinating with St. John's River Water Management District on water conditions and potential for water shortage in Orange County.
- Presented Supply Side Management for Lake Okeechobee to the Lower East Coast Eater Supply Advisory Committee. Staffs proposing implementation of Supply Side Management effective 11/29/00 with a June 1st reference state of 9.8 feet for calculating allocations.
- Receiving results of review of Water Supply Contingency Plan for impacts to threatened and endangered species.

#### **LOGISTICS/FINANCE:**

##### **Logistics:**

- Received executed contract from DCR for electrical control systems.
- Requested DCR apply for Palm Beach County permit to install the electrical control systems.
- Met with DCR and discussed project status:
  - DCR beginning pump site prep (wire and conduit) on 11/6/00 at one station ---- other two site preps to follow on 11/13/00
  - DCR reviewing electrical controls sled design. Approval pending shortly.
  - General Electric is finalizing the configuration of the GE switches.

- Received executed contract from FP&L to provide electrical service at S-351, S-352, and S-354.
- FP&L has begun installing electrical service poles at S-354
- Reviewing first draft of the Statement of Work for pump installation services.
- Submitted Waiver of Competition for the bioassay Lab Sample Testing to Office of Counsel for review.

#### **OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT COORDINATION:**

- Forward Pumping Units are in manufacturing at MWI and early completion is anticipated. Project Manager went to the MWI facilities on 11/14/00 and inspected pumps and bulkheads progress (pictures forthcoming). All technical information received to date will be forwarded to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for review.
- Conference call with USACE concerning Navigation issues on 11/7/00. Coordination and delineation of responsibilities continues.
- Coordination with Water Resources Operations to formulate strategy for muck fires ongoing.

#### **WATER SUPPLY SECTION:**

##### **Water Conservation Team:**

- EAA water use and Lower East Coast public water supply pumpage data for the month of October shows water use was low during the early part of the month but increased toward the end of the month. Water supply to the EAA came primarily from the WCAs. Moderate water supply deliveries were made from the Lake to the Indian Prairie and Caloosahatchee basins. Water use in the urban area in most cases has not been reduced as compared with last month or October of 1999.
- A scope of work has been prepared for the services of a media buyer to support the District's water conservation campaign. Water conservation literature has been drafted and will go to the printer next week for distribution to the service centers. Weekly (Mondays) service center briefings are being held to assure consistency in outreach activities.

##### **Lake Istokpoga Team:**

- No change in the Lake Istokpoga clean-up initiative. However, water users are becoming concerned as canal levels approach cut off levels and are asking what water supplies will be available.

##### **Modified Supply Side Management Implementation Team:**

- A new Supply Side Management proposal has been formulated and described before the November Governing Board and the Lower East Coast (LEC) Advisory Committee. A meeting with the large water users within the Lake Okeechobee service area has been scheduled for 11/21/00 and implementation is anticipated to begin 11/29/00.

##### **Lower West Coast Team:**

- The Governing Board voted to place the lower west coast under a water shortage warning in response to declining ground water levels associated with four weeks without rainfall.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Weekly conference call held with service centers to coordinate requests for information and speaking engagements.
- **Continuing progress on the production of pamphlets and brochures for public distribution.**

**OFFICE OF COUNSEL:**

- **Reviewing Waiver of Competition for the bioassay Lab Sample Testing.**
- **Prepared the Water Shortage Warning for the Lower West Coast region and legal notifications.**
- **Researching navigational issues and environmental water supply responsibilities during droughts.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Taylor, Deputy Executive Director  
Water Resources Operations

\_\_\_\_\_  
Olivia McLean, Director of  
Emergency Management

**Distribution:**

SFWMD Governing Board members  
Executive Group  
Governors Office  
Department of Environmental Protection  
US Army Corps of Engineers – Jacksonville/Clewiston Offices  
State EOC (Operations Officer)  
St. Johns River Water Management District  
Southwest Water Management District  
Northwest Water Management District